

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system, comprising:  
a plurality of clients;  
a plurality of network elements; and  
an element management system (EMS) interfaced with the clients and the network elements, the EMS configured to track which of the network elements are of interest to the clients, the EMS further configured to automatically ~~monitor~~ poll the network elements based on which of the network elements are determined, by the EMS, to be of interest to the clients, the EMS further configured to provide the clients with information indicative of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements.

2. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements and to provide one of the clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detected change.

3. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements, and wherein the EMS is further configured to identify which of the clients are interested in the one ~~monitored~~ polled element and to provide each of the identified clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detected change.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to identify which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements and to provide each of the identified clients with information indicative of a state of the one network element.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the EMS is configured to transmit the information indicative of the state of the one network element to each of the identified clients in response to a determination, by the EMS, that the state has changed.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to store graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements, the EMS configured to retrieve the GUI code in response to a request received from one of the clients and to transmit the retrieved GUI code to the one client, wherein the request identifies the one network element.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the EMS is configured to enable a user to update the stored GUI code, and wherein the EMS is further configured to detect an update to the stored GUI code and to transmit the updated GUI code to the one client in response to a detection of the update.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the EMS is configured to maintain data indicative of which of the clients are interested in which of the network elements, the EMS configured to update the data in response to the request.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the one client is configured to display the GUI based on the GUI code transmitted to the one client, the one client further configured to close the displayed GUI in response to a user input and to transmit a message to the EMS upon closing the displayed GUI, wherein the EMS is configured to update the data in response to the message.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the one client is configured to discard the GUI code transmitted to the one client upon closing the displayed GUI.

11. (Currently Amended) An element management system (EMS) for managing elements of a communication network, comprising:

means for tracking which of the network elements are of interest to a plurality of clients;

means for automatically ~~monitoring~~ polling the network elements of interest to the clients based on the tracking means; and

means for providing the clients with information indicative of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the ~~monitoring~~ polling means is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements, and wherein the means for providing is configured to transmit the information to one of the clients in response to a detection of the change by the ~~monitoring~~ polling means.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the ~~monitoring~~ polling means is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements, and wherein the means for providing is configured to identify which of the clients are interested in the one ~~monitored~~ polled element and to transmit information indicative of the state to each of the identified clients in response to a detection of the change by the ~~monitoring~~ polling means.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the tracking means is configured to identify which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements, and wherein the providing means provides the information based on the tracking means.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
means for storing graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements;  
means for retrieving the GUI code in response to a request received from one of the clients;  
and  
means for transmitting the retrieved GUI code to the one client,  
wherein the request identifies the one client.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:  
means for updating the stored GUI code; and  
means for detecting an update to the stored GUI code by the updating means,  
wherein the transmitting means is configured to transmit the updated code to the one client in response to the detected update.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for managing elements of a communication network, comprising the steps of:

tracking which of the network elements are of interest to a plurality of clients;  
automatically ~~monitoring~~ polling the network elements based on the tracking step; and  
providing the clients with information indicative of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:  
detecting a change in a state of one of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements based on the  
~~monitoring~~ polling step,

wherein the providing step includes the step of providing one of the clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detecting step.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:  
detecting a change in a state of one of the ~~monitored~~ polled elements; and  
identifying which of the clients are interested in the one ~~monitored~~ polled element based on the tracking step,

wherein the providing step includes the step of providing each of the identified clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detecting step.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:  
identifying which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements based on the tracking step,  
wherein the providing step includes the step of transmitting, to each of the identified clients, information indicative of a state of the one network element based on the identifying step.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:  
detecting a change in a state of the one ~~monitored~~ polled element,  
wherein the transmitting step is performed in response to the detecting step.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:  
storing graphical user interface (GUI) code remotely from the clients, the GUI code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements;  
retrieving the GUI code in response to a request received from one of the clients; and  
transmitting the retrieved GUI code to the one client,  
wherein the request identifies the one network element.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:  
enabling a user to update the stored GUI code;  
detecting an update to the stored GUI code; and  
transmitting the updated GUI code to the one client in response to the detecting step.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:  
maintaining data indicative of which of the clients are interested in which of the network elements; and  
updating the data in response to the request.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:  
displaying a GUI at the one client based on the GUI code transmitted in the transmitting step;  
receiving a user input,  
closing the displayed GUI in response to the user input; and  
updating the data in response to the closing step.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:  
discarding, in response to the closing step, the GUI code transmitted to the one client.

27. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to begin ~~monitoring~~ polling at least one of the network elements in response to a determination by the EMS that at least one of the clients is currently interested in the at least one network element.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the EMS is configured to poll at least one of the network elements in response to a determination that at least one of the clients is interested in the at least one network element.

30. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to receive, from one of the clients, a command for changing a configuration of one of the network elements identified by the command, and wherein the EMS is configured to change the configuration of the one network element in response to the command.

31. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 30, wherein the EMS is configured to transmit, in response to the command, a notification of the change in the configuration of the one network element to each of the clients determined by the EMS to be interested in the one network element.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~monitoring~~ polling step comprises the step of: initiating ~~monitoring~~ polling of at least one of the network elements in response to a determination that at least one of the clients is currently interested in the at least one network element.

33. (Canceled)



34. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 29, wherein the EMS is configured to ping the at least one client to determine whether the at least one client is still interested in the at least one network element.

35. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 34, wherein the EMS is configured to stop polling the at least one network element in response to a determination that the at least one client is no longer interested in the at least one network element.

36. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 29, wherein the EMS is configured to stop polling the at least one network element in response to a determination that the at least one client is no longer interested in the at least one network element.

37. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 36, wherein the EMS is configured to store graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with the at least one network element, the EMS configured to retrieve the GUI code in response to a request received from the at least one client and to transmit the retrieved GUI code to the at least one client, wherein the request identifies the at least one network element.

38. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 37, wherein the at least one client is configured to display the GUI based on the GUI code, the one client configured to close the displayed GUI in response to a user input, wherein the determination that the at least one client is no longer interested in the at least one network is based on closing of the displayed GUI.

39. (New) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to maintain data indicative of which of the network elements are currently of interest to the clients, and wherein the EMS is configured to select, based on the data, which of the network elements are to be automatically polled.

40. (New) The communication system of claim 39, wherein one of the clients is configured to run graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements, and wherein the EMS is configured to update the data to indicate that the one client is not interested in the one network element in response to a user closing the GUI associated with the one network element.

41. (New) The communication system of claim 40, wherein the EMS is configured to transmit the GUI code to the one client in response to a request received from the one client.

42. (New) The communication system of claim 41, wherein the EMS is configured to update the data in response to the request such that the data indicates that the one client is interested in the one network element.

43. (New) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to maintain data indicative of which of the network elements are currently of interest to the clients, and wherein the EMS is configured to periodically poll at least one of the network elements, based on the data, if the data indicates that the at least one network element is of interest to at least one of the clients.

44. (New) The communication system of claim 43, wherein the at least one network element comprises a communication device having a data rate, and wherein the EMS is configured to periodically discover the data rate by periodically polling the at least one network element.

45. (New) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to automatically and repetitively poll at least one of the network elements as long as at least one of the clients remains interested in the at least one network element.